

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 3, 2014

Contact: Dain Weister
407-858-1429

DOH-SEMINOLE READY TO PROTECT CITIZENS FROM EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS

SANFORD – The Florida Department of Health in Seminole County (DOH-Seminole) has been recognized by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) for its ability to plan for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies. DOH-Seminole demonstrated these capabilities by meeting the comprehensive preparedness benchmarks required by Project Public Health Ready (PPHR), a unique partnership between NACCHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. DOH-Seminole joins a cohort of more than 300 local health departments across the country that have been distinguished for excellence in preparedness through PPHR, either individually or as part of a region.

"We are proud to have been recognized by Project Public Health Ready for our high level of preparedness," said Dr. Swannie Jett, Health Officer for the Department of Health in Seminole County. "We will continue to improve our ability to quickly and effectively respond to any public health crisis in Seminole County."

PPHR recognition confirms that DOH-Seminole has a thorough and coordinated emergency response plan in place and that staff have the training to protect the health of the community during an emergency. Local health departments recognized by PPHR undergo a rigorous evaluation by peer review to assess their ability to meet a set of national standards for public health preparedness. These standards align with federal government requirements and other national best practices.

PPHR recognition also requires health departments to collaborate with their state, local, and community partners to develop plans that account for all the constituents in their jurisdictions. These partnerships include; the CDC, the FDOH, Seminole County Office of Emergency Management, Seminole County Sheriff's Office, Seminole County Fire and Rescue, Seminole County School Board, adjacent county health departments, local municipalities and their emergency departments, local law enforcement agencies, local and area hospitals, area healthcare providers, and the community at large.

"All disasters strike locally, and local health departments are a critical part of any community's first response to disease outbreaks, emergencies, and acts of terrorism," said Robert Pestronk, NACCHO Executive Director. "NACCHO commends [Health Department Name] for being a model of public health emergency preparedness."

NACCHO, the voice of the 2,800 local health departments across the country, provides resources to help local health department leaders develop public health policies and programs to ensure that communities have access to vital programs and services that people need to keep them protected from disease and disaster. Its mission is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice for local health departments in order to ensure the conditions that promote health and equity, combat disease, and improve the quality and length of all lives.

The Florida Department of Health in Seminole County (SCHD) is a subsidiary of the State of Florida Department of Health with a local, county and state commitment. The diverse environment promotes public health through quality healthcare, education and community observation. SCHD is committed to providing the highest quality of healthcare to the public including the uninsured and underinsured through various programs and services, and superior environmental and disease surveillance. For more information, go to www.floridahealth.gov/chdSeminole.

For more information on Project Public Health Ready, including recognized sites, project tools, and resources, visit <http://www.naccho.org/PPHR> .

###